1:Gordon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 ABT Khasi ABT

members of these clans do not apparently regard the animals or natural objects, from which they derive their names, as totems, inasmuch as they do not abstain from killing, eating or utilising them. The names of these objects are connected generally with some story, concerning the history of the clan, but there is no evidence to show that the clans-folk ever regarded the above animals or objects as their tribal totems. If the lists of the Khyrim and Cherra chiefs are examined, it will be seen what a large number bear the name of *Dkhar* or its abbreviation *Khar*. The word *dkhar* is that applied by a Khasi to an inhabitant of the plains. We come across names such as *Khar-mukhi*, *khar sawali*, the first word being an abbreviation of *dkhar*, and *mukhi* being the common Bengali name which occurs in Chandra Mukhi, Surjya Mukhi, &c. *Sawali* (*shawali*) is the common Assamese word for a girl. The ancestresses of these tribes were plains women, carried off, no doubt, in the raids made by the Khasis over the border into Assam and Sylhet. The word *Jirang* in the list of tribes is a Synteng synonym of *kur* or *jaid*, and the War word *Shang*, which will often be found in the names of the tribes of the twenty-five villages of the Khyrim State, is merely a corruption of *jirang* or *iong*, the Synteng word for clan. Let us now see how the State or Khasi Republic was formed out of a collection of these clans, how these clans obtained political powers, how some clans became more powerful than others, and how a Khasi King or Siem is appointed.

STATE ORGANISATION.

649 We have studied in the preceding chapter the formation of
650 the clan from the family, and how the former established villages. Let us now turn to the constitution of the Khasi State, which, it will be seen, has been formed, in some cases entirely by the voluntary association of villages, or groups of villages. The head of the Khasi State is the Siem or chief. A Khasi state is a limited monarchy, the Siem's powers
649 being much circumscribed. According to custom, he can pro-
650 claim no act of any importance without first consulting and obtaining the approval of his durbar, upon which the state

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